

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 185681
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE:MFG
APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE
S/S-0-LFLEISCHER
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
EA ONLY

-----027781 220919Z /16

R 220039Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185681

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: DELIVERY OF LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER TALBOYS

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER
BRIAN TALBOYS: QUOTE.

DEAR BRIAN: THANK YOU FOR YOUR USEFUL AND INTERESTING
LETTER. IT CONFIRMS EVERYTHING ELSE WE HAVE HEARD AND I
SHARE QUITE FULLY YOUR CONCLUSIONS ABOUT WHAT THE VIETNA-
MESE ARE UP TO.

I HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY, AND WILL LOOK FORWARD AT THAT TIME TO BRING YOU
UP TO DATE ON WHERE WE STAND.

WARM REGARDS, DICK HOLBROOKE. UNQUOTE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 185681

2. THANKS.

3. FYI, FOLLOWING LETTER DELIVERED TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY
HOLBROOKE BY NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY JULY 21.

QUOTE. DEAR MR. HOLBROOKE:

I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CONVEY TO YOU THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE
FROM THE NEW ZEALAND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

DEAR RICHARD,

YOUR MESSAGE ABOUT PHAN HIEN'S VISIT WAS WAITING FOR ME
WHEN I GOT BACK FROM EUROPE YESTERDAY. IT HAS BEEN VERY
HELPFUL TO US IN OUR TALKS WITH HIM.

MOST OF WHAT PHAN HIEN HAS SAID TO US IS NOT NEW, BUT IT
MAY BE USEFUL TO YOU TO KNOW WHAT HE HAS BEEN SAYING HERE.
THE MAIN POINTS HE HAS MADE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

-VIETNAM IS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE AND
SOVEREIGNTY AT ALL COSTS;

- VIETNAM WANTS PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA,
AND IS SEEKING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES IN
THE AREA;

- VIETNAM IS PREPARED TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE INDIVI-
DUAL MEMBERS OF ASEAN, OR WITH ASEAN AS A WHOLE, ON THE
DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE AREA;

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 185681

- REGIONAL COOPERATION MIGHT BE DEVELOPED THROUGH A NEW
AND WIDER ORGANISATION, WITH ASEAN REMAINING AS IT IS;

- JOINING COMECON DOES NOT REPRESENT ANY CHANGE IN VIETNAM'S
POLICY, BECAUSE IN COOPERATING WITH INTERNATIONAL
ORGANISATIONS IT ALWAYS INSISTS THAT THEY RESPECT VIETNAM'S
INDEPENDENCE;

- IF COMECON PROVIDES MORE AID, VIETNAM WILL WELCOME IT -
AS IT WOULD AID FROM JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND OR
THE UNITED STATES;

- VIETNAM WANTS TO GET AID FROM AS MANY COUNTRIES AS
POSSIBLE, TO PRESERVE ITS INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY;

- CAMBODIA'S ATTACKS ON VIETNAM HAVE BEEN INSTIGATED AND
SUPPORTED BY CHINA, BECAUSE IT WANTS TO HINDER VIETNAM'S
RECONSTRUCTION;

- VIETNAM WANTS TO SETTLE ITS DISPUTES BOTH WITH CAMBODIA
AND WITH CHINA BY PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS, AND IT BELIEVES

THAT WORLD PUBLIC OPINION SUPPORTS ITS POSITION.

ON OUR SIDE WE HAVE CONCENTRATED ON MAKING THREE POINTS
TO PHAN HIEN:

- IF THE TENSIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND ITS NEIGHBOURS ARE
NOT REDUCED SOON, OTHER GREAT POWERS WILL BECOME INVOLVED;
ALL COUNTRIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA MAY THEN FIND IT MORE
DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN THEIR INDEPENDENCE;

- ASEAN COUNTRIES WILL JUDGE VIETNAM LARGELY BY ITS
HANDLING OF CAMBODIA; IF IT CANNOT ESTABLISH FRIENDLY
RELATIONS WITH ITS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS, IT MAY HAVE
DIFFICULTY IN DOING SO WITH OTHERS IN THE AREA;
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 185681

- ANY CONCILIATORY MOVE MADE BY EITHER CHINA OR CAMBODIA
DESERVES TO BE CONSIDERED VERY CAREFULLY BY VIETNAM -
AND THE LATEST CHINESE NOTE DOES STRIKE US AS CONCILIATORY.

ON THE QUESTION OF NORMALISING RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED
STATES, I THINK WE HAVE MADE A LITTLE PROGRESS. AFTER
SUMMARISING THE BACKGROUND PHAN HIEN TOLD US THAT VIETNAM
UNDERSTANDS PRESIDENT CARTER'S DIFFICULTIES WITH CONGRESS,
AND THE FEELINGS OF SOME CONGRESSMEN ON THE SUBJECT. WHEN
WE ASKED WHY DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS COULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED
FIRST WITHOUT CONDITIONS, PHAN HIEN REPLIED THAT VIETNAM
HAS NOT PUT FORWARD ANY PRECONDITIONS. "IF THE AMERICANS
COME TO VIETNAM WANTING FRIENDSHIP, IT IS ALL RIGHT IF
THEY COME WITH EMPTY HANDS." PHAN HIEN EXPLICITLY
CONFIRMED TO ME THAT VIETNAM IS PREPARED TO ESTABLISH
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES WITHOUT ANY
CONDITIONS.

THE MAIN IMPRESSION WE HAVE FORMED FROM TALKING TO PHAN
HIEN IS THAT THE VIETNAMESE DO NOT EXPECT THEIR
DIFFICULTIES WITH CAMBODIA AND CHINA TO BE RESOLVED
QUICKLY, THAT THEY DO NOT WANT TO BE TOO DEPENDENT ON
THE SOVIET UNION, AND THAT THEY ARE THEREFORE VERY ANXIOUS
TO ESTABLISH FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES,
AS WELL AS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. PHAN
HIEN MENTIONED THAT HE HAD ASKED TO MEET YOU IN THE NEAR
FUTURE BUT HAD NOT YET HAD A RESPONSE. WHEN YOU ARE ABLE
TO ARRANGE A MEETING, I THINK YOU WILL FIND THAT THE
ATMOSPHERE IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE YOU HAVE HAD WITH
THE VIETNAMESE IN THE PAST.

WITH KIND REGARDS.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 185681

YOURS SINCERELY,

BRIAN TALBOYS.

NATURALLY, I WOULD BE HAPPY TO CONVEY ANY RESPONSE YOU MAY
WITH TO MAKE IN DUE COURSE.

YOURS SINCERELY,

JOHN RYAN
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. UNQUOTE. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE185681
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RHOLBROOKE:MFG
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780301-1112
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780730/aaaaazaj.tel
Line Count: 187
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0b9f8a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1917003
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DELIVERY OF LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER TALBOYS
TAGS: PDIP
To: WELLINGTON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0b9f8a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014